

Arizona State Retirement System

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News Release

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Arizona named a 'Top Performer' among nation's pension plans

Arizona has been named a national leader for responsible funding of both its pension plans and its retiree health costs in a nationwide study by the non-profit Pew Charitable Trusts.

Arizona was rated a "Top Performer" in its approach to funding both pensions and other benefits provided, such as retiree health insurance.

The study noted that Arizona "is one of just six states on track to fully fund the bill coming due for its non-pension obligations."

It singled out the funding of retiree health insurance, noting that Arizona "has a jump on other states because it has made a practice of setting aside money for future retiree health costs as part of its pension system."

The Arizona State Retirement System offers a retiree health insurance program for its retirees, and those of three other state public pension plans.

"This comprehensive report confirms that the ASRS is well positioned to meet our current and future obligations of providing our members with the retirement benefits they have earned," ASRS Director Paul Matson said. "Our members can have confidence that the benefits they have worked for will be there when they retire."

The study also noted that Arizona has established several reforms that have led to a more stable funding of benefits. The ASRS continues to be engaged in program and policy reviews of its benefit plans to ensure the retirement system is operating efficiently and effectively.